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Important Dates

July 16 — Shelby County Summer Program visit by KDE

July 24 — Central Region Parent Event at Beech Bend

September 4-6 — Fall Academy

September 12-13 — OSY Conference



Happy Birthday!

Emily Tooley 6/12
Cecila Stephens 7/13
Robin Pitvorec 7/17
Lana Mitchell 7/26
Barbara Dahl 7/31
Tommy Elliot 8/2
Rosa Kelly 8/12
Katalin McChesney 8/17

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Northeastern Blitz

For each of the past two years, the Kentucky Migrant Education Program has performed a recruiting blitz in one of the four regions. 2012 is the first time that we will have two blitzes; one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring blitz was hosted by the Northeastern Region. Regional Coordinator Bill Thompson and ID&R Coordinator Christina Benassi believed there were three main areas to focus on in the Northeastern Region: Henry County, Franklin County and Owen County. Franklin County was chosen because Benassi lives in this district and believes there are migrant workers living there. It has been an untapped area. The Franklin County and Frankfort Independent school systems currently do not have their own migrant programs. Franklin County has a farmer's market and agricultural area. Henry County and Eminence Independent were chosen because

the numbers in these districts have decreased from last year, and it was important to make sure families were not missed during recruiting efforts. Finally, Owen County was chosen because it is another untapped area where there is agriculture. The three goals of the blitz were to:

- 1) identify and recruit new migrant families and youth into the program
- 2) survey the areas to identify recent migrant patterns in order to develop appropriate recruiting strategies
- 3) provide an opportunity to identify local training and resource needs for recruitment efforts

During the week of May 21-25, a team of several individuals participated in the recruiting blitz. This blitz was unique since the focus was in three different areas within the region instead of one area. We had three different teams simulta-

neously working throughout the week. The blitz team members were Kentucky ID&R Coordinator Christina Benassi, Bourbon County Recruiter Jesette Monserratte and Shelby County recruiter Maria Loa., who recruited in Henry County for three days and Franklin County on the last day. Northeastern Regional Coordinator Laura Puente, Clark County Recruiter Heather Rhorer and Southeastern Regional Recruiter Maddie Conrad recruited in Franklin County. and Kentucky Migrant Consultant Frank Crossman, Northeastern Regional Recruiter Lupi Ginn and Scott County Recruiter Diana Kuta recruited in Owen County. New recruiter Elena Davis from Clark County floated between all three teams to learn from different perspectives.

In conclusion, the recruiters completed six certificates of eligibility (COEs) in Owen County and

What MSIX Can Do When Everyone Does Their Part

As a records clerk for the Western Regional Office of the Kentucky Migrant Education Program, Cindy Sasser serves as the region's MSIX data administrator. In April, a migrant student withdrew from the MEP district program in Christian County. Jan Heltsley, the district advocate, indicated on the individual's withdrawal form that the student was moving to Weld High School in Keensburg, Colo.

With this information, Sasser was able to log into MSIX and use the e-mail notification to send an alert ahead to Colorado that the student was moving to the area. Brenda Meyer, the data administrator for Colorado, received the notification. She then passed it on to the appropriate district-level person, Becky Flores, who contacted Sasser for the certificate of eligibility to qualify the student on remaining eligibility from the Kentucky move. All of this happened in a relatively short timeframe.

This whole process was exciting for Sasser because it was the first time she had seen an MSIX notification run its course.

However, none of it would have been possible without each individual following through and doing his or her part, from the advocate who filled out the information on the withdrawal form to all of the data specialists in between and finally to the recruiter in Colorado who made the placement. It shows MSIX works and, most importantly, that this student will continue to be served.

We thank Cindy Sasser, records clerk for the Western Region Office of the Western Kentucky Regional Migrant Education Program, for this contribution.

<http://reactsmsix.ed.gov/articles.aspx?article=124>

Clark County Uses Colors to Teach Students



Central Elementary Summer pictures
<http://summer123.yolasite.com/>



Clark County had a unique migrant summer program that included collaboration with a local school, Central Elementary, during the summer. This was how Clark County's Migrant Program can offer summer learning to students while saving money.

Held the week of June 11-15, the theme for the summer program was all about colors. The National Summer Learning Institute's Larry Smith and the Kentucky Department of Education's Frank Crossman and Christina Benassi observed the 2nd- grade

class and how they learned about mixing primary colors to make secondary ones. The class used yellow lemonade with red- and blue-colored ice cubes as the primary colors to make the secondary ones. Students put either red or blue ice cubes in their lemonade to see the colors change. The students really enjoyed seeing the colors change to orange and green.

After the experiment, the students drank the liquid and prepared for the next activity: color wheels. The students

were given paper plates and water colors so they could design their own color wheel. Again, the students enjoyed this activity. Upon completion of the color wheels, they were to be displayed in the hallway.

The preschool children made rainbows out of macaroni. Elena Davis and a student helper taught students colors in English and Spanish while they painted their rainbows. The preschool students did a wonderful job learning the color words.

Hardin County Invites Parents to Learn About Summer Program

By Robin Pitvorec

Hardin County opened up its summer program on May 31 with a parent meeting at a local restaurant. It was a great success and an awesome way to start the summer learning. Sixty-three people attended, including staff and representing 85 percent of the migrant families. The meeting began with introductions from the migrant staff, Robin Pitvorec (migrant advocate), Edwin Bonet and Maria Bas-Delgado (recruiters), Jackie Gibbons, Michael Radford, Nannette Martinez, Kristin Gani, Annette Neblette and Kim Nelson (tutors). Then, the MEP staff reviewed all the requirements for parents and students during the summer program. The staff reiterated the importance of

receiving 70 hours so students could attend the Beech Bend field trip.

Staff acted out a skit to demonstrate the benefits of participating in the migrant summer program and how it will affect the students' school success. Although it was comical and everyone laughed, in the end it was serious. The group listened and understood the benefits of summer school. Students were given free books provided by our regional office after the skit to begin their summer reading. The exciting thing is that all the students are reading, doing their independent study and participating in order to go to Beech Bend. It has sometimes been difficult for us to get them to read during the summer months (independent study). The parents also seemed to understand the

importance of summer learning from attending this meeting.

So far this summer, Hardin County has had a field trip to Frazier Museum in Louisville and the Rauschenberg Planetarium. Parent participation was great for both events. Staff has indicated how families are participating in our two-hour weekly home instruction. These families truly see the benefit of summer learning.

Because of the Hardin County MEP staff, the summer program is starting off with great success. The staff did a great job getting the parents involved so they could be informed and student learning could take place.

McLean County Summer Program

By Judy Wood



Bluegrass is the official state music of Kentucky, and Bill Monroe's "Blue Moon of Kentucky" shares with Stephen Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home" the honorable distinction of being the official Kentucky state songs. The infectious energetic style of dance that grew up around Bluegrass and old time music is clogging, the official Kentucky state dance. This museum, located in Owensboro, was established to preserve the history of the music Monroe created and is located 30 minutes from the little town of Rosine and Jerusalem Ridge, the home place where he was born and grew to manhood.

This was the theme for McLean County Migrant Education Summer

Camp 2012. Recording artists Heath Eric and Molly G instructed students in history of Bluegrass and terms related to music history. During the camp they went outdoors to get inspirations that inspired the words that they would use to compose an original song. They learned about musical instruments and even learned to play them as their backup for the song "In the Wind."

Their song was recorded in a studio that Heath and Molly set up. They named their recording studio Untouchable Records, produced by Hot Rock Strawberry. Visits to the Bluegrass Museum and to Bill Monroe's home-

place provided the rich heritage of bluegrass origins. They performed their song on the steps of Bill Monroe's home with an audience of other Bluegrass musicians and visitors. The camp included preschool through high school students. Parents attended the camp and assisted students in class as well as on the field trips. The group will perform during the McLean County Fair in July. Shirts designed by the group will add to their performance. Evaluation of camp included the finished project and interviews by students. Written evaluations showed evidence of recall of historical facts and musical terms.

Marvelous Ideas for Migrant Middle School Students

Everyone knows middle school is a very hard time for students for a variety of reasons, including peer pressure and hormones. They can be a difficult group to reach unless you know how to keep them engaged. Frank Crossman and Christina Benassi have observed a few exemplary summer programs that engaged this difficult group of students.

One such program was at Clark County. Even though Clark County had only four middle school students in attendance, it was evident that each of them were listening and participating in the group activities. The teacher was talking about adolescence being a hard time for students due to mood swings, changes in their bodies and peer pressure. The students gathered around the computer as they watched a Brain Pop video about adolescence. They talked about reasons why the boy in the video was “grumpy.” The video enhanced their understanding of the hormonal changes that occur.

Then the students discussed the story from “READ 180” about a boy who tried to surf on a subway due to peer pressure, but had a fatal accident. The students were able to talk about the real-life story and how peer pressure really can affect students and how they can work through these problems. The teacher also mentioned that some peer pressure can be good. If your friend wants you to study for the test with them, he may be using good peer pressure. The story included a vocabulary word for the students to look up in the glossary: rebel. Once students looked up the word, they each gave an example of the word in a sentence. Then they wrote the definition and their sentence in their journals. of the hormonal changes that occur.

It was a great connection when the teacher told these students that their younger siblings look up to them and admire them so they must lead good examples. Finally, the students

played on a new app called Social Express, which further helped middle school students with peer pressure.

The Southeastern Regional Summer Camp provided opportunities for middle school students as well. This camp had the students work on presentations using prezzi. Marco, a 7th-grade student from Fayette County, enjoyed designing his presentation about being a professional soccer player. Each student had to design a prezzi of what they wanted to do after high school. They researched colleges, salaries, pictures, job descriptions and more about their careers. Marco wanted to be a professional soccer player for Chivas. Benassi asked him several questions about soccer to get him thinking about what to include on his prezzi. He had lots of fun creating his presentation, and it was a great opportunity for these middle school students to begin thinking about their futures.

“A.L.O.H.A.” from Montgomery County

Montgomery County’s Migrant Education Program hosted a camp for about 45 students who are in kindergarten through 7th grade. The summer program theme was “A.L.O.H.A.,” which is an acronym that stands for **Awesome Learning Opportunities Help Achievement**. Rooms were decorated with palm trees, monkeys, parrots and flowers to create a unique physical environment while also giving an island feel for the students. During camp, students had many opportunities to learn across a broad range of subjects. Most activities used an inquiry-based learning approach, which allowed students to draw meaning and understanding from their experiences. Twice a week, students participated in “Crime Scene Investigations” during CSI Science. Fourth- and 5th-grade students participated in a CSI lesson that allowed students to prove whether someone was guilty or innocent by analyzing and comparing evidence collected. Prior to the lesson, teachers obtained soil samples from the crime scene along with dirt from six pairs of the suspects’ shoes. The students then used the scientific method to answer the question, “Did Sam steal the money from the trunk?” After forming their hypotheses, students conducted an experiment by testing and recording the pH levels of the soil samples. Recorded data was analyzed in order to determine whether their hypothesis was true or false. The students had fun while learning.

Using Apps to Monitor Student Progress

Clark County teacher Angela Miller assisted with Central Elementary and the Migrant Summer Programs. She organized the apps and helped students during their iPad instructional time. She shared two really valuable apps — Splash Math and Smarty Pants.

Splash Math was chosen for many reasons, but the main one is for the individual student profile that generates a report for each student. This app costs \$10 per grade level for grades 1 through 3, but is well worth the price. Each app supports ten different users. The hard part is making sure that each child gets the same number on his or her iPad each time in order to

maintain a unique profile. When students open the app, they decide if they want easy, medium or hard math. The questions will correspond to the choice and build as they go. The 1st-grade app includes information on numbers to 20, addition using models, telling time, identifying and counting coins and understanding weight and capacity. This is a great way to collect data on math during the summer.

Smarty Pants is another app used by Clark County’s summer programs. This app focuses on reading and phonics skills. It is very useful, since it also had information on each child that can be sent to the teachers.

Students with IEPs or those with special needs use Smarty Pants to assist them with their reading goals. The downfall to this app is the baby voices that are used in the beginning, but Miller suggested each student use earphones so other students cannot hear it. This app has great information on letters, alphabet games, letter sounds, first words and sight words. It is recommended for kindergarten through 2nd grade.

You can find these apps on the Apple iTunes store site: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>



Migrant Summer Programs

- ◆ In order to count category two students, you must provide one of three elements:
 - ◇ money
 - ◇ collaboration documented by both the school district and coordinating program
 - ◇ providing services



Reminders:

- ◆ Don't forget — district applications were due to regional service centers on July 1.
- ◆ Submit possible articles to Christina Benassi by August 15.
- ◆ If you need assistance recruiting, please call Frank Crossman or Christina Benassi at (502) 564-3791. We will be happy to assist you.

Reminders for Recruiters completing COEs

- ◆ Write a brief comment if you found the person a year after his/her QAD date.

Special thanks – you will be missed!

- ◆ Thanks to the Southeastern Regional Recruiters Maddie Conrad and Miguel Vieyra for their hard work.
- ◆ Thanks to Carolyn Ferrell for her hard work being the Western Regional coordinator.
- ◆ Thanks to Jannifer Hetsley for her hard work with Christian County.

Christina Benassi

ID&R Coordinator

500 Mero Street, Frankfort KY

Phone: (502) 564-3791



Getting to Know Virginia Hess

This issue's spotlight is Virginia Hess, Ed.D., migrant coordinator for the Pulaski County school district. Hess is also the middle school instructional supervisor and English language learner administrator.

She received her doctorate from the University of Kentucky, Rank I from Eastern Kentucky University and master's degree from the University of Louisville. She has worked in the Pulaski County school system for 20 years, the last 14 in an administrative capacity. Only in the last five years has Hess worked with the migrant program.

Since becoming the migrant coordinator in Pulaski County, Hess has placed a concentrated focus on the academic achievement for migrant students. This has been accomplished though changes to the summer program, primarily through extension of the amount of

time students spend with summer tutors. Student work is required to focus specifically on the area of individual need.

Additionally, Hess has coordinated efforts between the migrant and EL program to provide six parent meetings per year. These are designed to help parents feel more comfortable communicating with the schools to aid in their children's success.

Increased offering of individual tutoring also has helped maintain this academic focus. The migrant staff has embraced these changes with enthusiasm. Implementation and ready acceptance of these changes have led to success.

Outside of work, Hess enjoys making functional pottery, reading, gardening, cooking and spending time

with family. She is also an adjunct professor for Lindsey Wilson College and teaches in the Master's of Education program there. She and her husband Mike have three children and two grandchildren.

